

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of)
)
MUROTANI et al.)
)
Application Number: To be assigned)
)
Filed: Concurrently Herewith)
)
For: DISK ARRAY APPARATUS AND DISK ARRAY)
 APPARATUS CONTROL METHOD)
)
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. ASAM.0119)

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**REQUEST FOR PRIORITY
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

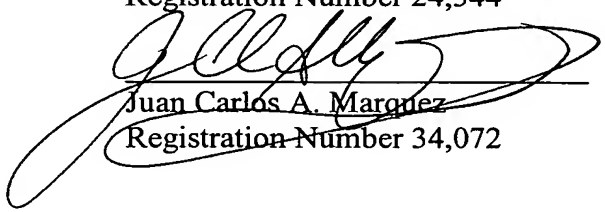
Sir:

In the matter of the above-captioned application for a United States patent, notice is hereby given that the Applicant claims the priority date of February 16, 2004, the filing date of the corresponding Japanese patent application 2004-038169.

A certified copy of Japanese patent application 2004-038169, will be submitted as soon as it is received from Applicant. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy is respectfully requested in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344



Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200
April 12, 2004